

| TOWN OF THERMOPOLIS - YEAR END REPORT                                                                                                |           |           |                          |           |           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026                                                                                                        |           |           |                          |           |           |
| GENERAL FUND REVENUES                                                                                                                |           |           | ENTERPRISE FUND REVENUES |           |           |
|                                                                                                                                      | Budgeted  | Actual    |                          | Budgeted  | Actual    |
| Taxes                                                                                                                                | 840,000   | 1,026,409 | Water                    | 1,454,500 | 1,522,619 |
| Licenses & Permits                                                                                                                   | 199,050   | 203,248   | Sewer                    | 740,500   | 742,788   |
| Intergov. Revenues                                                                                                                   | 3,250,100 | 1,841,029 | SN/LF                    | 954,242   | 872,481   |
| Charges for Services                                                                                                                 | 26,250    | 67,307    | Non-Op. Rev.             | 290,150   | 312,787   |
| Fines & Forfeitures                                                                                                                  | 100,000   | 37,859    | Transfers In             | 420,000   | 554,828   |
| Misc. Rev. & Trsfr.                                                                                                                  | 130,000   | 132,094   | Total                    | 3,859,392 | 4,005,503 |
| Total Revenues                                                                                                                       | 4,545,400 | 3,307,946 |                          |           |           |
|                                                                                                                                      |           |           | ENTERPRISE FUND EXPEND.  |           |           |
| General Government                                                                                                                   | 710,500   | 524,050   | Water                    | 1,642,200 | 1,456,585 |
| Public Safety                                                                                                                        | 1,434,501 | 1,024,914 | Sewer                    | 796,650   | 637,085   |
| One Cent Sales Tax                                                                                                                   | 955,000   | 332,422   | SN/LF                    | 1,242,650 | 693,244   |
| Streets & Alleys                                                                                                                     | 690,400   | 559,851   | Capital Outlay           | 3,947,500 | 104,024   |
| Parks & Recreation                                                                                                                   | 55,200    | 41,113    | Debt Expense             | 7,700     | 5,047     |
| Other Gen. Accts.                                                                                                                    | 2,394,750 | 76,320    | Transfers Out            | 45,000    | 45,000    |
| Trsfr to other Funds                                                                                                                 | 555,000   | 554,828   | Total Expend.            | 7,681,700 | 2,940,985 |
| Total Expenditures                                                                                                                   | 6,795,351 | 3,113,498 |                          |           |           |
|                                                                                                                                      |           |           | INSURANCE TRUST FUND     |           |           |
|                                                                                                                                      |           |           | Revenues                 | 599,600   | 579,454   |
|                                                                                                                                      |           |           | Expenditures             | 622,000   | 565,813   |
|                                                                                                                                      |           |           |                          |           |           |
| REVOLVING LOAN FUND                                                                                                                  |           |           | TRUST FUNDS              |           |           |
| Revenues                                                                                                                             | 1,000     | 4,274     | Revenues                 | 1,350     | 1,572     |
| Expenditures                                                                                                                         | 500       | -         | Expenditures             | 5,100     | -         |
| This year end budget report is published for your information. If you have questions, call Connie Guntly or Jim Jeunehomme 864-3838. |           |           |                          |           |           |

Pub. Oct. 15, 2026No. 2204

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

The Thermopolis Town Council met in regular session on July 21, 2026, at 7 pm at Town Hall. Present were Mayor Adam Estenson, Council members Tony Larson, John Dorman Sr., Rachel Hughes, and Dusty Lewis. Also, present were Mayor/Codes Administrative Assistant Jim Jeunehomme, Clerk/Treasurer Connie Guntly, Public Works Director Basil Sorensen, Police Chief Pat Cornwell, and Town Engineer Anthony Barnett.

AGENDA: Following the pledge of allegiance, Larson made a motion, seconded by Hughes and carried to approve the agenda.

FIXED ASSET DELETION LIST: Lewis made a motion, seconded by Larson and carried to approve the Asset Removal List.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT RESOLUTION NO. 592: Dorman made a motion, seconded by Larson and carried to approve and adopt Resolution 592, which adjusts the budget to reflect actual costs.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT: Larson made a motion, seconded by Lewis and carried to approve the financial statement for June 2026.

BILL PAY: Lewis made a motion, seconded by Hughes and carried to approve the list of bills.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: 1. CATERING PERMIT: Double D LLC, requested a permit for the July 25, 2026, Ranch Rodeo event at the Fairgrounds. Dorman made a motion, seconded by Hughes and carried to approve the 24hr Catering Permit. Fair Board permission was received. 2. CATERING PERMIT: Double R LLC, requested a permit for August 8, 2026, Class of '27 Pig Wrestling event at the Fairgrounds. Larson made a motion, seconded by Lewis and carried to approve the 24hr Catering Permit. Fair Board permission was received.

PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Estenson opened the Public Hearing at 7:10pm for comments on the Conditional Use Permit, Residential Construction. After three calls for public comment and hearing none the Public Hearing was closed at 7:12pm. Lewis made a motion, seconded by Hughes and carried to approve the Conditional Use Permit.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: The following reports were available for review: police, engineering, streets and alleys, water, wastewater, sanitation and landfill.

CHIEF OF POLICE: Officer Fisher will be graduating the Academy on July 30, 2026, and potential new hire will be starting soon as well.

PUBLIC WORKS: The crew is working on 5th Street for the chip seal project.

TOWN ENGINEER: Anthony Barnett stated the bidding process has started for 5th Street. After the flood, water usage has resumed to normal. Mr. Barnett is going to look into the documents for the Transfer Station.

ADMINISTRATION: 1. STREET CLOSURE: Mayor Estenson, requested Arapahoe Street Closure for August 9, 2026, from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm for the Parish Picnic. Larson made a motion, seconded Hughes and carried to approve the street closure.

MAYOR & COUNCIL: 1. MERCHAN MCINTYRE AGREEMENT: Lewis made a motion, seconded by Hughes and carried to renew the Merchant McIntyre service agreement for \$5,000 a month terminating December 31, 2026.

At 7:42pm Dorman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Hughes and carried. The next Council meeting is August 4, 2026, at 7pm.

BILLS: American Welding, Cylinder rental, \$78.35; BCN, Phone, \$98.47; Big Horn Water, Service, \$39.50; Biolynceus, Supplies, \$7,41075; Brenntag, Supplies, \$10,687.30; Canyon Concrete, Supplies, \$678.00; Caselle, Support, Software \$12,830.40; Counter Strike Supply, Uniform, \$388.00; Dave Smith GM/Chrysler, PD Vehicle, \$43,753.00; Empower Trust, Deferred Comp, \$320.00; Energy Labs, Service, \$179.00; Eurofins Abraxis, Supplies, \$563.55; Gall's LLC, Uniform, \$102.09; Hawkins, Chlorine Rental, \$10.00; High Plains Power, Service, \$56.83; IR, Legal Ads, \$1,100.90; JH Computer, Services, \$763.75; Lexipol, Subscription, \$1,162.64; Lexis Nexis, Law Books, \$143.61; Murdoch Oil, Fuel, \$2,590.60; NCPERS, Life Ins., \$160.00; O'Reilly, Parts, \$60.38; Range, Service, \$1,036.49; Riverton Tire & Oil, Oil, \$231.49; Thermopolis Hardware, Supplies, \$83.71; T-Mobile, Phone, \$473.45; TOT, Depreciation, Utilities, \$151,585.71; Tumble Weed Propane, Propane, \$157.50; USPS, Postage, \$280.69; Visa, Supplies, \$3,595.60; WAMCAT, Membership fees, \$75.00; Williams Law Office, Service, \$900; WY Secretary of State, Notary App, \$60.00; Wy Child Support, \$250.00; WY Gas, Service, \$330.85; WY Public Health Lab, Testing, \$72.00; Youth Alternatives, Services, \$500.

ATTEST:  
  
Connie Guntly  
Clerk/ Treasurer  
  
Adam R. Estenson,  
Mayor  
  
Pub. Oct. 15, 2026No. 2203

FORECLOSURE SALE NOTICE

Default in the payment of principal and interest has occurred under the terms of a Promissory Note (the "Note") dated December 30, 2020, executed and delivered by Debra D. Caillouette ("Mortgagor") to Pinnacle Bank - Wyoming, and a real estate Mortgage (the "Mortgage") of the same date securing the Note, which Mortgage was executed and delivered by said Mortgagor, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee, as nominee for Pinnacle Bank - Wyoming, its successors and assigns, and which Mortgage was recorded on January 6, 2021, at Reception No. 0542985, in Book 193, at Page 574-590 in the public records in the office of the County Clerk and ex-officio Register of Deeds in and for Hot Springs County, Wyoming.

The Mortgage was assigned for value as follows:  
Assignee: Truist Bank  
Assignment dated: March 25, 2026  
Assignment recorded: March 25, 2026  
Assignment recording information: at Reception No. 0565471, in Book 217, at Page 432-432  
All in the records of the County Clerk and ex-officio Register of Deeds in and for Hot Springs County, Wyoming.

The Mortgage contains a power of sale which, by reason of said default, the Mortgagee declares to have become operative, and no suit or proceeding has been instituted at law to recover the debt secured by the Mortgage or any part thereof, nor has any such suit or proceeding been instituted and the same discontinued.

Written notice of intent to foreclose the Mortgage by advertisement and sale

has been served upon the record owner and the party in possession of the mortgaged premises at least ten (10) days prior to the commencement of this publication, and the amount due upon the Mortgage as of September 25, 2026 being the total sum of \$35,087.86, plus interest, costs expended, late charges, and attorney fees accruing thereafter through the date of sale.

WHEREAS, the property being foreclosed upon may be subject to other liens and encumbrances that will not be extinguished at the sale. Any prospective purchaser should research the status of title before submitting a bid. Prospective purchasers must tender proof of funds at the time of sale.

If the foreclosure sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of his/her/its money paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagee, Mortgagor, Servicer, or their attorneys.

NOW, THEREFORE, Truist Bank, as Mortgagee, will have the Mortgage foreclosed by law by causing the mortgaged property to be sold at public venue by the Sheriff or Deputy Sheriff in and for Hot Springs County, Wyoming to the highest bidder for cash at 11:00 o'clock in the forenoon on November 3, 2026 on the front steps of the Hot Springs County Courthouse located at 415 Arapahoe, Thermopolis, WY 82443, for application to the above-described amounts secured by the Mortgage, said mortgaged property being described as follows:

Lots 7 and 8, Block 40, Original Townsite of the Town of Thermopolis, Hot Springs County, Wyoming.

With an address of 929 Warren St, Thermopolis, WY 82443 (the undersigned disclaims liability for any error in the address).

Together with all improvements thereon situate and all fixtures and appurtenances thereto.

Mortgagee shall have the exclusive right to rescind the foreclosure sale during the redemption period. In the event that the sale is rescinded or vacated for any reason, the successful purchaser shall only be entitled to a refund of his/her/its purchase price and/or statutory interest.

Important Notice to Potential Bidders: Federal law administered by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network ("FinCEN"), a bureau of the U.S. Department of the Treasury, requires certain residential real estate transactions to be reported to the federal government. If you are the winning bidder at auction, you may be required to provide identifying information about yourself and, if applicable, any entity or trust purchasing the property. This information is required by federal law and must be provided to complete the sale. Failure to provide required information after the sale may delay or prevent issuance of the foreclosure deed.

Dated Spetermber 14, 2026  
  
Truist Bank  
  
By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lewis N. Stoddard  
Halliday, Watkins & Mann, P.C.  
376 East 400 South, Suite 300  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111  
801-355-2886  
HWM File # WY22509  
  
Pub. Sept. 24, Oct. 1, 8 & 15, 2026  
No. 2188

There is a 1996 Sportmaster camper trailer, white, with VIN# 1KS208T24TD925369 that will be sold at Sheriff's public auction on the front steps of the Hot Springs County Courthouse on October 20, 2026, at 11 a.m. This sale is to satisfy abandoned vehicle costs against Kieth Dietsch on the above listed vehicle by John Martinez in the amount of 1,000.00

Pub. Oct. 8 & 15, 2026No. 2202

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Michael and Michele Stevens have requested a land use change from Agricultural Land Use to Commercial Land Use for approximately 60 acres to allow for seven guest tipis and five guest cabins. The subject property is a 60-acre parcel located in the north half of the southwest quarter of Section 16, Township 42 North, Range 95 West, which is situated at the western terminus of Coyote Run. The parcel is addressed as 492 Coyote Run.

A public hearing on this matter will be held before the Hot Springs County Land Use Planning Commission at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, October 21, 2026, in the Commissioner' Meeting Room of the County Annex Building, 117 N. 4th St, Thermopolis, Wyoming. Anyone requir-

ing additional information may call the County Clerk's Office at (307) 864-3515. Written comments should be addressed to County Clerk, 415 Arapahoe Street, Thermopolis, WY 82443 and should be postmarked no later than October 26, 2026.

Pub. Oct. 8 & 15, 2026No. 2199

Public Notice

The Spring Gulch Coal Company of Thermopolis, Wyoming (Permit No. 211) has applied for Area and Phase 1 bond release from the Land Quality Division of the Department of Environmental Quality for the State of Wyoming. This permit was originally approved on October 21, 1974. The coal mining permit area is located in: T. 46N., R. 98W., Sections 30, 31, 32, and 33 and T. 46N., R. 99W., Sections 25 and 26, Hot Springs County, Wyoming. The area of the permit is approximately 31 miles northwest of Thermopolis, Wyoming. This area can be found on the Grass Creek USGS quadrangle map. The parcels to be released from bond are located in Section 26 in Township 46N, Range 99W. This bond release request includes 11.7 acres for Area release and 14.9 acres for Phase 1 release. The total bond requested for release is \$118,450. The Area and Phase 1 release are for the completion of back-filling, rough grading, contouring, and soil replacement which occurred from November 2025 to March 2026.

Information regarding the mining operation, reclamation procedures and areas proposed for release may be reviewed in the Office of the Land Quality Division of the Department of Environmental Quality in Cheyenne and Lander, Wyoming. Written objections to the proposed bond release request must be received by the Administrator of the Land Quality Division, Department of Environmental Quality, 200 W. 17th Street, Suite 10, Cheyenne, WY 82002 before the close of business November 14, 2026. Objections may also be submitted by the same deadline via the Land Quality Division's electronic comment portal at https://lq.wyomingdeq.commentinput.com/. If written objections are filed, and a public hearing is requested, the Environmental Quality Council (Council) shall hold a public hearing within sixty (60) days after the final date for filing objections unless a different period is stipulated to by all parties. The Council shall publish notice of the time, date and location of the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the locality of the proposed operation once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks immediately prior to the hearing. The hearing shall be conducted as a contested case in accordance with the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act (W.S. §16-3-101 through §16-3-115), with a right of judicial review as provided in that act. Without prejudice to the objector or applicant's right to a hearing before the Council, the Administrator may hold an informal conference to resolve written objections after notification to all parties. The Administrator shall make a record of the conference unless waived by all parties, which shall be accessible to all parties. The Administrator shall furnish all parties of the conference with a written finding of the Division based on the conference, and the reasons for the finding.

Para español, visite deq.wyoming.gov. Americans with Disabilities Act: special assistance or alternative formats will be made available upon request for individuals with disabilities. Please provide at least fourteen (14) days before the close of the public comment period for such requests.

Pub. Sept. 24, Oct. 1, 8 & 15 No. 2189

Public Notice

The Spring Gulch Coal Company of Thermopolis, Wyoming has applied for a coal mining permit renewal from the Land Quality Division of the Department of Environmental Quality for the State of Wyoming. The coal mining permit area will be located in: T. 46N., R. 98W., Sections 30, 31, 32, and 33 and T. 46N., R. 99W., Sections 25 and 26, Hot Springs County, Wyoming. The area of the permit is approximately 31 miles northwest of Thermopolis, Wyoming. This area can be found on the Grass Creek USGS quadrangle map. The original permit to mine was granted on October 21, 1974 and is estimated to continue until 2036. The land, after mining, will be returned to livestock grazing and wildlife habitat.

Information regarding this application may be reviewed in the Office of the Land Quality Division of the Department of Environmental Quality in Cheyenne and Lander, Wyoming or the Hot Springs County Clerk's Office at Thermopolis, Wyoming. Written objec-

Continued from Page 8

tions to the proposed mining operation must be received by the Administrator of the Land Quality Division, Department of Environmental Quality, 200 W. 17th Street, Suite 10, Cheyenne, WY 82002 before the close of business November 14, 2026. Objections may also be submitted by the same deadline via the Land Quality Division’s electronic comment portal at <https://lq.wyomingdeq.commentinput.com/>. The Director shall hold an informal conference if requested, hear the complaint and take action on the application in accordance with Wyoming Statute (W.S.) 35-11-406(p) and the Department’s Rules of Practice and Procedure. The Director shall render a decision on the application within thirty (30) days after the deadline to file objections if no informal conference is requested. An informal conference shall be held within thirty (30) days after the final date for filing objections unless a different period is stipulated to by the parties. The Director shall publish notice of the time, date and location of the conference in a newspaper of general circulation in the locality of the proposed operation once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks immediately prior to the conference. If the director holds an informal conference, all parties to the conference shall be furnished with a copy of the final written decision of the Director issuing or denying the permit within sixty (60) days of the conference. The applicant or objector may appeal the director’s written decision after an informal conference to the Council. If a hearing is held the hearing would be conducted as a contested case in accordance with the Wyoming Administrative Procedure Act (W.S. §16-3-101 through §16-3-115) with a right of judicial review afforded as provided in that act and W.S 35-11-406(p)(iv). The Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission will be mailed a copy of the application mine plan map as given in W.S. §35-11-406(j).

Para español, visite [deq.wyoming.gov](http://deq.wyoming.gov). Americans with Disabilities Act: special assistance or alternative formats will be made available upon request for individuals with disabilities. Please provide at least fourteen (14) days before the close of the public comment period for such requests.

Pub. Sept. 24, Oct. 1, 8 & 15, 2026  
No. 2190

NOTICE OF FINAL PAYMENT

Pursuant to Section 16-6-116 of the Wyoming Statutes, latest revision, Notice is hereby given that Town of Thermopolis, Wyoming has been advised that the work on the THERMOPLIS – 2026 CHIP SEAL PROJECT has been completed according to the plans and specifications and rules set forth in the Contract between the Town of Thermopolis, Wyoming, the Owner, and WILD WEST CONSTRUCTION, the Contractor, and said Contractor is entitled to final settlement therefore. All persons, firms or corporations who have any claims for work done or equipment/materials furnished on said work are hereby notified that final payment will be made to said Contractor in accordance with the terms of the Contract after the 41st day (11-18-26) following the first publication of this Notice. This Notice does not relieve the Contractor and the sureties on their bond from any claims for work or labor done or materials or supplies furnished in the execution of the Contract.

/s/ Town of Thermopolis

Pub. Oct. 8, 15 & 22, 2026 No. 2201

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held before the Hot Springs County Land Use Planning Commission at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 21, 2026 in the Commissioners’ Meeting Room of the County Annex Building.

Pam Watkins and Vivian Rigsby have requested a single-lot subdivision and a land use change from Agricultural land use category to the Residential land use category for approximately 4.93 acres.

The subject property is an approximate 147-acre parcel located in the N½ of the NE¼ and NW¼ of Section 18, Township 43 North, Range 94 West, Hot Springs county, Wyoming, more commonly known as 491 Highway 20 North.

Anyone requiring additional information should contact the County Planning Office at (307)864-2961. Interested parties unable to attend the hearing are invited to submit written comments prior to the meeting via: mail to County Planning 415 Arapahoe St., Thermopolis, WY 82443 or by email to [planner@hscounty.net](mailto:planner@hscounty.net).

Pub. Oct. 8 & 15, 2026 No. 2200

NOTICE

The Hot Springs County Board of Commissioners is asking Hot Springs County Residents to apply to serve on the following Hot Springs County Board:

Fair Board – One seat open due to unexpired term. (Term through January 1, 2027)

Residents of Hot Springs County interested in applying to serve on the Board should submit their County Board Application (available on the County website [www.hscounty.com](http://www.hscounty.com) or at the County Clerk’s Office) to the Hot Springs County Clerk’s Office. Applications will be considered and appointments made at the Hot Springs County Commissioners meeting on November 17, 2026.

Becky Kersten  
Hot Springs County Clerk

Pub. Oct. 15 & 22, 2026 No. 2205

STATE OF )OFFICE OF THE  
WYOMING )BOARD OF  
)COUNTY  
COUNTY OF )COMMISSIONERS  
HOT SPRINGS )THERMOPOLIS, WY  
)September 15, 2026

The Hot Springs County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room at the Government Annex. Present were Commissioners Bob Aguiar, Paul Galovich and Tom Ryan. Also present were County Clerk Becky Kersten, County Attorney Jill Logan, and Assistant to the Commissioners Kim Lindseth. Chairman Aguiar led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Galovich moved to approve the agenda. Commissioners approved the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Ryan moved to approve the minutes from September 1, 2026. Commissioners approved the minutes.

Ardurra – Black Mountain Road Update

Dusty Spomer and Luke Provart from Ardurra were present to give an update on the Black Mountain Road Reconstruction Project. Mr. Spomer reported on some of the high points of the project, which reconstructed 8.5 miles of road. The general contractor on the project was Wilson Brothers out of Cowley, WY. Mr. Spomer reported the original contract price of the project was \$5.8M and once the County received the Mineral Royalty Grant from the State Land Investment Board (SLIB) for \$1.9M, the County was able to change order in the remainder of the contract, bringing the total contract price to about \$7.8M. Mr. Spomer explained the project contract was a working or unit price contract where the work items are estimated and paid on actual at the end of the contract. Mr. Spomer reported that at the end of the project there was a savings of a little over \$250,000. Mr. Spomer pointed out with the SLIB grant and the \$5M CRIP (Commission Road Improvement Program) grant from the State of Wyoming, the \$250,000 in savings was a savings directly to the County. Mr. Spomer thanked the County for the project and thanked Wilson Brothers and Shane Rankin, Hot Springs County Road and Bridge Supervisor, for being great partners in the project. Mr. Spomer stated he was happy to report the project is now complete and the advertisement for final payment had been made. Commissioner Ryan stated this project was a long endeavor and thanked Mr. Spomer and Ardurra for their engineering on the project and figuring out how to keep costs down while still delivering a quality product. There was discussion on how many grant applications were made and turned down and how competitive the grant process is. Mr. Rankin stated there were many obstacles during the project, including cost increases and the collapse of a major culvert, but he was very happy with the end result. Commissioner Galovich stat-

ed he also wanted to thank Ardurra, and with cost increases due to inflation, he had been concerned the project wouldn’t get completed all the way. Clerk Kersten reported due to State statutes, the County is required to advertise the final payment twice, giving subcontractors or anyone else an opportunity to come forward if needed. Stating she had not received any requests, Clerk Kersten suggested the Commissioners make a call to the audience to see if anyone had a request for payment for services. Clerk Kersten explained State statute says final payment is due 41 days after substantial completion, which is September 30, 2026. Clerk Kersten reported she would be presenting the AP Warrant Register for final payment and the check would be dated September 30, 2026. Commissioners approved signatures on Warrant number 69583 for \$439,359.14 for final payment on the Black Mountain Road Project.

Road and Bridge Department – Shane Rankin

Road and Bridge Supervisor, Shane Rankin, presented an application for an Approach Agreement for approval. Mr. Rankin explained this is an existing field approach on County Road #25, where the owners have now built on the far end of the field, and want to widen the approach. Mr. Rankin reported he had visited the site and everything looks good and his department will extend the culvert and widen the approach. Commissioners approved the approach agreement application.

Planner Request for Proposal (RFP)

Commissioner Aguiar stated three letters of support for retaining a permanent County employee in the Planner position had been received. Commissioner Aguiar reported the letters were from County Clerk Becky Kersten, Clerk of District Court Kris McNeff, and County Attorney Jill Logan. Commissioner Aguiar asked Clerk Kersten to give a synopsis of the letters instead of reading them all aloud in their entirety. Clerk Kersten stated she believed the citizens of Hot Springs County and the County’s independent contractors and outside agencies will all have better service if the County has a Planner on site five days a week. Clerk Kersten stated the letters would be available for anyone in the public who wished to read the extent of them. Clerk Kersten reported Ms. McNeff’s letter respectfully asks the Commissioners to recognize and preserve the substantial value provided by an in-house County Planner and Major Projects Manager. Clerk Kersten asked the Commissioners to consider everyone’s comments. Clerk Kersten stated the current Planner is currently working on several major projects, some of which are scheduled to go through the end of 2027 and much consideration should be given of how those projects would be managed and who would be responsible for them. Commissioner Aguiar asked Ms. Logan if she would like to comment on the letter she had submitted. Ms. Logan stated a contract planner would create a lot more work for her office and while she is not afraid of putting in the work, she is down one attorney and having to do much of the prosecuting herself. Ms. Logan reported she utilizes the Planning office several times a week. Ms. Logan stated she is concerned the County would suffer because she would not have time to provide competent representation in those kind of issues. Ms. Logan stated she had not had time to review the draft RFP or consider what the County would want in a contract for an outside planner and felt the process was being rushed which was a disservice to the community. Commissioner Ryan asked Commissioner Aguiar to take public comment given not a lot of information had been released about the RFP to the community and only three items were on the agenda. Commissioner Aguiar agreed to take public comment and stated five people could speak for two minutes each. Commissioner Ryan advocated for hearing from all the audience members who wished to speak rather than limiting public input to five people. Several community members and additional County employees addressed the Commissioners to emphasize the significant value of an in-house Planner and express concerns regarding the hiring of a contract Planner. Attendees highlighted the high demand for the current Planner in meeting the needs of both community members and County offices, raising concerns a contracted Planner could lead to increased financial costs, reduced convenience, and potential legal issues. After hearing the many concerns raised by both County employees and community members, Commissioner Aguiar suggested the Commissioners hold a work session to discuss the RFP further. Commission-

er Ryan suggested they discuss it now during the meeting with the public and said he felt they should abandon the RFP. Commissioner Ryan went on to say local engineers had said they could not be candidates for the RFP as it was as conflict of interest and the next option would be a contract engineering firm out of the County. Commissioner Ryan asked how a contract Planner out of area would be able to serve the needs of the community in a timely manner or manage the major projects the current Planner does. Commissioner Ryan stated the Commissioners needed to make a decision if they should continue with the RFP process and he continued to oppose the idea. Commissioner Galovich stated he didn’t think it was wise to proceed with the RFP if the potential candidates would be out of area was fine with abandoning the RFP process. Commissioner Ryan moved for the Commissioners to drop the RFP for an outside Planner. Commissioners approved the motion to drop the RFP. There was further discussion on the motion from audience members conveying support for the motion made by Commissioner Ryan and a question regarding how actionable items should be handled by the Board of County Commissioners.

Other Business

1. Approval of Request from Travel and Tourism Board - The Travel and Tourism board requested a County appointed board member be removed for just cause according to their by-laws. Commissioners approved the request.

Correspondence

1. WY DEQ Land Use Division – Notice of Spring Gulch Coal Company, Public Notice of Permit Renewal Application
2. Fair Board August Minutes and September Agenda
3. Center for Public Opinion Letter – Violence Against Elected Officials
4. NRPC August Minutes

Adjournment

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Hot Springs County Board of Commissioners will be held on October 6, 2026 at 9:00 a.m., at the Hot Springs County Annex building, 117 N. 4th St. Thermopolis. The public is invited to attend in person, or view the meeting via Zoom through the link provided on the County website. To be placed on the Agenda please email Becky Kersten, County Clerk, at [commissioners@hscounty.com](mailto:commissioners@hscounty.com). Per Wyoming Statute section 18-3-516 (f), County information may be obtained at the County website <https://hscounty.com/> or by requesting a Public Records form from the County Clerk’s office.

ATTEST:

/s/Bob Aguiar,  
Chairman

/s/Becky Kersten,  
County Clerk

Special Accounts Payable:

Vendor

Wilson Brothers Construction Inc.  
Description  
Final Payment Black Mountain Road Construction  
Amount  
\$439,359.14

Pub. Oct. 15, 2026 No. 2206

Public Notice

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Lucerne Water and Sewer District shall hold its Biennium Election on Tuesday, November 3, 2026 at the Lucerne Water and Sewer District Office located at 584 Highway 20 North, Thermopolis, Wyoming. The Polls will be open between 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Positions open for Election are two (2) Board members for a four (4) year term. Any Persons interested in running for either position now due for Election must submit written nominations with the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Kent Cordingly, 580 Highway 20 North, Thermopolis, Wyoming 82443, signed by not less than five tax-paying electors of the District. Those written nominations must be submitted on or before October 31, 2026 to Kent Cordingly. Forms for written nominations must be obtained from Chairman Kent Cordingly or Taylor Cordingly, (Secretary) for the Lucerne Water and Sewer District, 584 Highway 20 North, PO Box 611 Thermopolis, Wyoming.

Lucerne Water and Sewer District

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